

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 07661 191101Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /010 W  
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P R 190741Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9962  
CINCPAC

UNCLAS MANILA 7661

USIAC

FOR: SECSTATE EA/PHL ONLY  
USIA/IEA  
CINCPAC - USIA ADVISOR

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS - MAY 13-19, 1977

### I. PSYCHOLOGICAL

A. HUMAN RIGHTS REAFFIRMED - PRESIDENT MARCOS' DECISION TO RELEASE MRS. TRINIDAD HERRERA AND COURT-MARTIAL HER ALLEGED TORTURER RECEIVED MODERATE AND MATTER-OF-FACT COVERAGE IN THE LOCAL MEDIA, WITH ONLY THE EVENING POST ALLUDING TO AMERICAN INQUIRIES ON THE CASE. THE POST PICKED UP THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO THE RELEASE FROM UPI AND APPENDED IT TO THE END OF THE STORY. OTHER MEDIA CARRIED THE STORY AS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE MARCOS ADMINISTRATION'S DETERMINATION TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE BULLETIN TODAY, IN AN EDITORIAL, SAID THE RELEASE "STRESSES THE CONTINUING CONCERN OF HIGH AUTHORITIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS," AND "WILL HAVE A POWERFUL DETERRENT EFFECT ON MILITARY AND POLICE..." THE BULLETIN CONCLUDED  
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THAT MALTREATMENT OF DETAINEES "IS NOT A NECESSARY COROLLARY OF MARTIAL LAW" AND "A CIVILIZED SOCIETY CAN TAKE MEASURES TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER WITHOUT VIOLATING ITS OWN CONSTITUTION ON CIVIL RIGHTS."

B. MILITARY AID: INSUFFICIENT OR UNDESIRABLE? - UNDERSECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS JOSE INGLES, ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS

REPORTS, USED THE PHILIPPINE-US MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD MEETING HERE LAST WEEK TO CRITICIZE THE UNITED STATES FOR FAILING TO PROVIDE MILITARY AID TO THE EXTENT REQUIRED BY THE US/PHIL MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. HIS COMMENT WAS ECHOED BY EXPRESS COLUMNIST TEODORO VALENCIA IN A BRIEF PARAGRAPH IN ONE OF HIS COLUMNS, BUT GENERATED NO FURTHER COMMENTARY.

BULLETING COLUMNIST APOLONIO BATALLA, HOWEVER, WITHOUT MENTIONING EITHER INGLES OR VALENCIA DEVOTED AN ENTIRE COLUMN AT MID-WEEK TO A COMPARISON BETWEEN WESTERN NATIONS AND THE SOVIET UNION ON THE SUBJECT OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, CRITICIZING THE SOVIETS FOR GIVING ALMOST NOTHING BUT MILITARY AID, WHILE THE WESTERN DEMOCRACIES AND JAPAN LAY "GREAT STRESS ON ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ASSISTANCE TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES."

BATALLA CONCLUDED: "PROBABLY, SOMEDAY SOME SCHOLAR OR INSTITUTION WILL TOTE UP THE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID GIVEN BY THE BIG POWERS TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THROUGH THE YEARS. THEN WE WILL HAVE A VALUABLE CRITERION BY WHICH TO JUDGE THE INFLUENCE OF THE VARIOUS DONOR COUNTRIES."

C. GOOD NEWS ON WESTERN PRESS - IN AN EARLIER COLUMN THIS WEEK, BATALLA ATTACKED ANOTHER OF VALENCIA'S PET BETES NOIR: THE WESTERN PRESS. BATALLA AGREED THAT THE PHILIPPINES DOES OCCASIONALLY GET "BAD PRESS IN THE WEST," BUT WHERE IS THE COUNTRY THAT DOES NOT." "THE VIRTUE OF THE WESTERN PRESS" HE SAID, "IS THAT WHILE IT CAN BE BIASED AT TIMES OR BE BADLY INFORMED IT EVENTUALLY HITS THE BULL'S EYE BECAUSE UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE COMPETITION."

D. CARTER ENERGY PLAN PRAISED - THE BULLETIN TODAY DEVOTED AN EDITORIAL TO THE ENERGY CRISIS, GIVING PRES. CARTER'S ENERGY PLAN KUDOS FOR GOING "TO THE ESSENCE OF THE WORLD ENERGY PROBLEM. IT SETS A PRECEDENT FOR OTHER STATES SIMILARLY SITUATED TO FOLLOW."

## II. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES:

AMERICAN SPECIALIST DR GEORGE STERNLIEB, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR URBAN POLICY RESEARCH AT RUTGERS, MET MAY 18 WITH A GROUP OF ABOUT 50 MIDDLE AND UPPER OFFICIALS OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY AND MAY 19 WITH FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING. IN BOTH INSTANCES, HIS TOPIC WAS "HOUSING, LAND USE, AND ZONING IN THE U.S." STERNLIEB IS AN EFFECTIVE SPEAKER, VERY SENSITIVE TO THE INTERESTS AND LEVEL OF COMPREHENSION OF HIS AUDIENCE,

AND THE POST CONSIDERS BOTH SESSIONS TO HAVE BEEN USEFUL AND  
PRODUCTIVE IN TERMS OF MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH THIS SPECIAL-  
IZED BUT IMPORTANT SECTOR OF THE OVERALL TARGET AUDIENCE.  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009